

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 01170 311634Z

53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 311444Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1829

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T CAIRO 1170

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, US, UR, XF

SUBJECT: GROMYKO'S VISIT TO CAIRO

1. IN CONVERSATION JAN 30 WITH TASS DEPUTY DIRECTOR YEDRASHNIKOV, EMBOFF ASKED WHY GROMYKO IS COMING TO CAIRO. YEDRASHNIKOV REPLIED CRYPTICALLY HE THOUGHT IT WAS A "FACE SAVING" EXERCISE TO REMIND SADAT THAT USSR IS STILL IN THE PICTURE. (COMMENT: PRESUMABLY, IT IS SOVIET FACE WHICH IS TO BE SAVED.) LATER IN CONVERSATION, YEDRASHNIKOV COMPLAINED ABOUT POLITICAL PRESSURE WHICH SADAT HAS BEEN PUTTING ON MOSCOW BY HIS RECENT STATEMENTS TO PRESS CONCERNING SOVIET RELUCTANCE TO RESUME MILITARY SHIPMENTS, AND CHARACTERIZED AS POLITICAL PROPAGANDA THE STORIES CIRCULATING IN CAIRO ABOUT PROFESSIONAL DISTRESS WITHIN THE RANKS OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY AS RESULT THIS NON-DELIVERY OF EQUIPMENT. HE SAID HE DID NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT THIS KIND OF PRESSURE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH GROMYKO'S DECISION COME TO CAIRO.

2. YEDRASHNIKOV ASKED AMBOFF WHY DATE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT HAD BEEN SHIFTED FROM FEB. 7. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT TO HER KNOWLEDGE NO DATE HAD BEEN FIXED, AND FEB. 7 HAD BEEN SUGGESTED

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ONLY BY JOURNALISTS AS LIKELY DATE. YEDRASHNIKOV SAID HE HAD

THOUGH FEB. 7 WAS FIRM AND HAD BELIEVED GROMYKO'S DECISION TO VISIT CAIRO FEB. 3 WAS IN SOME WAY LINKED TO THAT DATE.

3. EMBOFF ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF PLO'S OFFICE IN MOSCOW SAYING IT APPARENTLY HAD NOT YET OPENED. YEDRASHNIKOV SAID HE WAS NOT INFORMED BUT WOULD FIND OUT.

4. DISCUSSING GENERAL INTERNAL SITUATION YEDRASHNIKOV STRESSED TERRIBLE BURDEN OF ECONOMIC AUSTERITY ON EGYPTIAN PEOPLE, REMARKING THIS IS MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM SADAT HAS TO BEAR.
EILTS

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